



Locomotive at Ngardmau State

**Bureau of Arts and Culture
Palau Historic Preservation Office
Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs
2008**

Completion Report of FY'07 Site Restoration and Development Project Of Railroad Tracks in Ngardmau State

Each year Bureau of Arts and Culture send letters to all sixteen states of the Republic of Palau announcing the availability of the fund called, Site Restoration and Development Fund Grant provided by US National Park Service in the amount of \$ 2,000.00 dollars to help restore one (1) eligible registered site in their respective state. The states are given a thirty days time to submit their application proposals in order to be eligible to win the two thousand dollars grant to restore a registered site. This usually happens during the middle of February to March each year. On March 25, 2008, letters with applications to restore a registered site were sent to all sixteen (16) state of the republic announcing the proposed undertaking to take place. They were given thirty days time to submit their application proposals. Only five states were able to participate by submitting their proposals on time competing for a chance to win this year's grant of \$2,000 dollars to restore a registered site in their respective states. The following are the five states who participated with sites offered for restoration this year : Kayangel State-Diong er a Olekang, Koror State-li ra Omis, Ngaraard State-Ked ra Malk, Ngardmau State-Railroad Tracks, and Ngchesar State-Iliud er a Mesial.

The BAC review committee composed of staff from each sections of the Bureau of Arts and Culture met on May 16, 2008, and reviewed each application based on how well they responded to each questions asked, especially in reference to Project Eligibility Requirements provided. This is how each state applicant scored by points: (1) Koror State - 253, (2) Ngardmau State -246, (3) Kayangel State – 240, (4) Ngchesar State – 238, (5) Ngaraard State – 211. This meant that Koror State won with most points but then complain came right after the points were tabulated that this particular applicant (Koror State) some how submitted doctored signatures of the traditional chiefs supporters. After it was verified by the committee to be true, Ngardmau State was picked then as the second highest point getter to be awarded the FY'07 Site Restoration Project to restore an old Railroad Tracks used during Japanese occupation to mine

bauxite in Ngardmau in late 30's. Railroad Tracks in Ngardmau State (Site No. B:NR-5:12) was entered into the Palau Register of Historic Places in 2004 as one of the significant historic site remain. The site contain railroad tracks, locomotive engines, and grottos. (See photos attached).

On May 28, 2008, director of the Bureau of Arts and Culture sent a letter of congratulation to Ngardmau State awarding the state of the FY'07 Site Restoration Project and "thank you" letters to those who took time to participate but did not make it. Afterward communications were initiated between BAC and Ngardmau State Office regarding the signing of the Project Cooperative Agreement and the project opening ceremony. Both were scheduled to take place on the 30th of July 2008.

On July 30, 2008, BAC met with Governor Akiko Sugiyama and Ngardmau State traditional chiefs and reviewed the Project Cooperative Agreement and signed it for the project to start. After the signing of the cooperative agreement by both parties, first payment check in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) was released to Ngardmau State for the project to start.

Opening Ceremony for the Railroad Tracks project started at 10:00am on July 30, 2008 at Ngardmau Waterfall Parking Area. More than 65 people included Ngardmau State Governor and traditional chief and some board members (PH&CAB), and invitees representing some government agencies, especially Palau Visitors Authority (PVA), Palau Community Action Agency (PCAA), and Belau National Museum (BNM)) were able to come and witnessed the opening ceremony of Ngardmau State restoration project to start.

The following report summarizes the restoration project activities undertaken by some Ngardmau State young men and women to restore a registered site laying in the interior of Ngardmau State. The site is the remain of an old Japanese era Railroad Tracks and Locomotive engines, Site No. B:NR-5:12, laying in the forest below the Waterfall side of

the Compact Road. The trail from the Waterfall Parking Area to the Waterfall descend east to intersect the Railroad Tracks below at the level ground, and continues on north following the tracks running north-south.

The physical work of the site began on August 8, 2008. Two women and eight men from Ngardmau State were hired by the state to undertake the restoration project. The project entailed clearing of overgrowth on the tracks in the vicinity of the turn to the Waterfall following the tracks that runs north to end at a locomotive engine. (See photos attached). The workers used hand tools such as machetes, chainsaw, weed cutters, sickles, and rakes to cut and clear trees, vines, and thickets of underbrush to expose the site that has been abandoned for over sixty years. It took them a total of twenty hard working days to complete this tedious and tiresome restoration work.

In some areas along the tracks they cleared debris blocking water drains and exposed portions of buried tracks. Along the tracks close to the locomotive engine are a couple of grottos on the sloped sides of the tracks (photo 12). A portion of the tracks in this area is covered with the landslide and the workers built steps across it to make it more accessible for the visitors to the site (photo 8).

At the end of the restoration project the workers built a couple of wooden benches at the site in the vicinity of abandoned locomotive for the visitors to visit the site.

Monitoring the Restoration Project

BAC digital camera was used to document the Ngardmau State - Railroad Tracks restoration project.

Palau Horizon, a local news media was hired to print eight hundred (800) copies of brochures for Ngardmau Railroad Tracks site. The brochure will contain photo and map of the site. The site name and site registration number. Interpretation of the site both in

English and vernacular. The brochures will be distributed to the public for education, awareness, and promotion of the site.

The Print Zone Company, was selected to fabricate a 24"x36" Sintra Core interpretive sign for Railroad Tracks site. The sign will contain a map and a brief history of the Railroad Tracks both in English and Palauan. The interpretive sign will be posted at the site when completed and will be documented. Photos of the installation of the sign will be forwarded to the NPS.

See attachments.



PHOTO 1 : RAILROAD TRACKS



PHOTO 2 : RAILROAD TRACKS



PHOTO 3 : RAILROAD TRACKS



PHOTO 4 : RAILROAD TRACKS



PHOTO 5 : RAILROAD TRACKS



PHOTO 6 : RAILROAD TRACKS



PHOTO 7: RAILROAD TRACKS



PHOTO 8 : RAILROAD TRACKS



PHOTO 9 : RAILROAD TRACKS



PHOTO 10 : RAILROAD TRACKS



PHOTO 11 : RAILROAD TRACKS



PHOTO 12 : GROTTA ALONG THE
RAILROAD TRACKS



PHOTO 13 : RAILROAD TRACKS



PHOTO 14 : LOCOMOTIVE



PHOTO 15 : LOCOMOTIVE ENGINE



PHOTO 16 : LOCOMOTIVE ENGINE



PHOTO 17 : LOCOMOTIVE ENGINE



PHOTO 18 : LOCOMOTIVE ENGINE



PHOTO 19 : LOCOMOTIVE ENGINE



PHOTO 20 : RAILROAD TRACKS



PHOTO 21 : RAILROAD TRACKS



PHOTO 22 : RAILROAD TRACKS